



Sunday, 12th March, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Year A



Parish Priest: Rev Fr Ian McGinnity
Deacon: John Collins
Parish Secretary: Frances Gallagher
Parish Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 9am - 3pm

School Principal: Tony Hughes
School Phone: 8846 2700
School Web Site:

www.ctknorthrocks.catholic.edu.au

Baptisms: Every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 11:15am

Weddings: By Appointment

Reconciliation: Saturdays 9:30am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Suspended until further notice

Children's Liturgy: The 1st & 3rd Sundays during 10am Mass (excluding school holidays)

Good Neighbours Group: Mary MacKillop Hall every 2nd Thursday at 10am- **Suspended until further notice**

PARISH SERVICES

Sunday Masses:

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Weekday Masses:

Wednesday 9.00am

Thursday 9.00am

Friday 9:15am

Saturday 9.00am

Parish Address:

10 Statham Ave, North Rocks NSW 2151

Phone: 9871 8710

Email: northrocks@parracatholic.org

Website: <https://northrockscatholic.org.au>

IN YOUR MERCY, PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED

THE SICK: Marea Mooney, Natalie De Maria, Anthony Sullivan, Margaret McCaffrey, Barbara Ison, Marija Barclay, Brian & Warren Johnson, Margaret Martin, Tina Coorey, Peter Reiter, Eric Vaughan, Mimi Jayatilaka, Sandra Neill, Patrick Wheeler, Abraham Concepcion, Ace Sortisas, Oliver Ofiana, Jenny Commisso Smith, Helene Graham, Ken Sunderland, Sonia Merchant, Delia Hipolito, Bev & Pat McAppion, Edna Esmero.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Irene Vaughan

ANNIVERSARIES: Beryl Vaz, John Vaz, Richard Dias.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

All people thirst for meaning, but of what does that meaning consist? The people in the desert thirsted for water, but they misunderstood their thirst. The woman of Samaria thirsted. Her conversation with Jesus showed that she thirsted for understanding and insight as well as water.

For what do we thirst in this world of such great excess and unmeasured need? Life has not become simpler with all of our advances. We still thirst for more – for the newest, the fastest and the best. How much is enough, and when do we cross the line into 'too much'?

The gospel readings for the scrutiny Sundays very clearly lay out the choices that are placed before the catechumens and the rest of the believing community as well. This Sunday it is between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob's well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one.

A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?

8.00AM MASS

We welcome Father Paul Hanna who will preside at the 8.00am Mass this weekend and thank him for his assistance.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES 2023

The Sacrament of First Eucharist (Yr 4 and above) on 10/11 June.
The Sacrament of Confirmation (Yr 5 and above) on 20 September.
First Reconciliation (Yr 3 and above) on 12 & 13 December.

MISSION STATEMENT

Centred on the Gospel of Jesus, Christ the King Church is a warm, welcoming community of faith. We continue to strive to be open and to embrace diversity, as we love and grow in relationship to God and in service to one another.

This Week's Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2,5-8; Jn 4:5-42
 Next Week's Readings: 1 Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Lectors and Parishioners please note that the full text can be found on the website: www.universalis.com

TO OUR MINISTERS OF THE PARISH

Should you be rostered and not be able to attend your rostered Mass, please email the parish office: northrocks@parracatholic.org or ph 9871 8710, or indicate on the roster through Ministry Scheduling that a volunteer is required. A replacement can then be organised on your behalf.

Thank you for your ongoing participation in these important ministries.

11th & 12th March - Third Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	George Germanos	Sue DeCourcy	John DeCourcy Inge Wienker	Veronica Chacty	Fadia Sleiman
Sunday 8am	John Murphy	Jim Kinsella	Danielle Dona	Trish Yates	Caroline Thurairatnam
Sunday 10am	Peter Elchaar	Aubon Fernando	Sam Safy	Levi Brown	Margaret Coakley

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Jim Kinsella, Anne-Marie Makin Ken Coorey

COUNTER GROUP 1: Counting is on the 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Lent - No flowers

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Carole Frare & Sue Hales; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Sarah Cook

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 6: Ryan Brown, Luke Peterson, Ellen Vaughan, Brian Euhus

18th & 19th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

	Welcomer	Acolyte	Reader	Computer Operator	Eucharistic Minister
Saturday 5.30pm	Julie Hook	Keith Henson	Kerry Saad	Veronica Chacty	Maria Bietola
Sunday 8am	Chris Brown	Rosemary Wickham	Tony Hughes Julie Elliott	Jo-Anne Castaneda	Caroline Thurairatnam
Sunday 10am	Rosanne Vaughan	Mariana Tomasovic	Rob Haddad Sam Safy	James Ryan	Fadia Sleiman

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sarah Cook, Mary Cook, Rachel Parnaby

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Rosemary Wickham, Mario Azzopardi, Ken Coorey

COUNTER GROUP 1: Counting is on the 1st Sunday of the month

ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP: Lent - No flowers

PIETY GROUP: Vigil: Julie Hook; 8.00am Volunteer needed; 10.00am: Ellen Vaughan

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP 1: CTK School Mums, Julie Bechara

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes this Lenten season to help Caritas Australia support vulnerable people around the world. Together we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the Church foyer, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



COMMISSIONING OF CATECHISTS

During the 10.00am Mass this weekend the parish will commission our Special Religious Educators who work on our behalf to give witness to the Gospel to Catholic children attending our state schools at Carlingford West and North Rocks. We give thanks for the work they do throughout the year in this vital ministry. We particularly wish to thank Terri Hirschhorn for her continuing in the role of parish coordinator with the additional responsibilities and organisational skills that that entails.



THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST (HOLY COMMUNION)

Children in Year 4 or above who have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and whose families reside within our parish boundaries (or who worship regularly at Christ the King) are now eligible to receive the sacrament of Eucharist (First Holy Communion). In the parish of Christ the King, the sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated at the three parish Masses (Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8am and 10am) on the weekend of 11th /12th June (the Feast of Corpus Christi).

The program for preparation to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion will commence with an information meeting for parents/guardians (children not required) on Wednesday, 26th April commencing at 7.30pm in Christ the King Church, where the program and enrolment procedure will be explained and any questions answered. This is a significant step in your child's journey of faith. It is essential that parents/guardians attend this meeting.

SHARING OUR STORY

Sharing Our Story is a new small group program offered at Christ the King. It provides a safe and welcoming context for people to reflect on their life and faith in the light of the Gospel reading from the previous Sunday.

Sharing Our Story is open to everyone. The only requirement is a desire to reflect on your life of faith and a willingness to ask questions. The program is conducted in the CTK Church on the third Wednesday of each month from February to November from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The next session is this Wednesday, March 15th.

For more information email Mariana Tomasovic: mariana_tomasovic@hotmail.com or Deacon John Collins through the Parish Office or via email: john.collins@parracatholic.org.

MUSICIANS/CANTORS

The parish is desperately seeking new musicians and cantors to enhance our liturgies. If you are hiding your talents and would like to consider this important ministry in our church, please contact the parish office.



SUNDAY NIGHT SESSION TONIGHT

A series of presentations, seminars, workshops, discussions, and stories designed to invite adults (young and old) to grow and develop in their faith. Each session begins at 7.00pm and finishes at 8.30pm and is held in the CTK Parish Hall. Sessions are designed to provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions, share thoughts and ideas and learn new stuff.

The aim of the sessions is to further develop a community of mature inquisitive Catholics at Christ the King. Everyone 16 and over is welcome to participate. Sunday Night Sessions are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month from February to November. A Gold Coin Donation to assist with the cost of coffee, tea and biscuits is welcome.

The session this Sunday, 12th March is 'Vatican II and Pope Francis' and is to be presented by Deacon John.

For more information or if you would like to assist with organizing these sessions contact Deacon John through the parish office or via email john.collins@parracatholic.org.

6 WEEKS OF LENT – GIVE 6 THINGS TO JRS FOODBANK

Right now, JRS is supporting 150 families a week and the demand for help keeps growing. Many of the families that are served are not eligible for centrelink, medicare and don't have work or study rights. With the cost of living rising many are struggling to have enough food to get their kids through the week. Any and all support is greatly appreciated during the Lenten season. To help keep everyone fed, parishioners are asked to donate one item a week:

Week 1: Cooking oil (1L - 2L bottles)

Week 2: Basmati Rice (1kg - 5kg bags)

Week 3: Long life milk (1L bottles)

Week 4: Tuna in oil (425g cans)

Week 5: Pantry essentials (Sugar, salt, instant coffee, tea bags)

Week 6: Liquid laundry detergent

Items can be left in the Church foyer and will be taken by a member of the parish to the JRS office.

A LETTER FROM BISHOP VINCENT LONG

Dear friends in Christ,

Not long after my Installation as your pastor, I desired to hold a Diocesan Synod in order to develop a pastoral plan which would follow my predecessor's "Faith in Our Future" and chart a new pathway for the Diocese. However, we had to wait for the long-delayed national Plenary Council to conclude.

Today, after much prayer and consultation, I formally announce the convocation of the Synod in the Diocese of Parramatta. This will be the first Synod in the history of our young Diocese. Like the national and universal synods, ours will be also held in two phases. The first assembly will be held from Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 October 2023 and the final assembly will be held near the middle of next year 2024.

Recognising the fruits of the Plenary Council and in the spirit of synodality, to which you have already contributed so deeply, I invite you to walk with me as we discern further a framework by which we can revitalise our Church in the Diocese and discover together a path of renewal for all of us.

I have appointed a Preparatory Commission to lead this process, chaired by Sr Ailsa Mackinnon RSM, Chancellor of Ministries and Qwayne Guevara as the Lead Facilitator.

Pope Francis has called the entire People of God into a journey of listening and discernment, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide us towards personal conversion and renewal in the Church. Pope Francis explains that 'The journey of synodality is the journey that God wants from His church in the third millennium'.

In preparation towards the Synod, I encourage you to participate in prayer, listening, discernment and local action, guided by the Holy Spirit, as we seek to witness to the Gospel and foster a more welcoming, compassionate, and humble Church. The Diocesan Synod will have a significant impact on the way in which we live out community and mission.

The time is now, here in the Diocese of Parramatta, for us to 'go out into the deep' (Luke 5:4) and step into the future that awaits us - one that is inspired by the deep understanding that God's love is not reserved for a few, but for all. Let us accompany one another along this path with firm hope and abiding trust in our God who desires our good, and who dwells among us.

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv.

TAP TO GIVE

Our Parish has a Tap to Give device to make it easier for our faith family to give an offertory gift to help sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral and charitable ministries.

Our Tap to Give device, located in the Church Foyer, enables us as a Parish to accept cashless donations which are automatically deposited into our bank. Our Tap to Give device has been pre-set with a gift amount of \$10.

CREDIT CARD AND DIRECT DEBIT CHANGES

Please inform the Parish Office on 9871 8710 or send an email to northrocks@parracatholic.org of any changes to your credit card number/expiry date or direct debit account.

Parishioners who wish to make a donation to the parish, can access the facility on the front page of the Parish website by clicking "Donate Now" on the top right-hand side of the page or donating directly to

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/ChristTheKingParishNorthRocks> via Credit Card. Should you wish to make a donation via direct debit, please use the following details:

BSB: 067-950

Account Number: 00000479

Account Name: North Rocks Catholic Church

FIRST COLLECTION:

If you would like to contribute towards the support of the priests, please use the following details:

BSB 067-950

Account No. 00004265

Account Name: Parramatta Diocesan Clergy

Reference Number: 6027

Thank you to everyone in the continual support of the parish and the clergy of the Diocese of Parramatta.

EMAIL ADDRESS

If you have changed your email address or now have an email address, could you please notify the Parish Office northrocks@parracatholic.org as soon as possible. Thank you.

BEQUESTS (Please contact the Parish Office for further information)

Many of us have a special connection to our parish, nurtured by years of faith-sharing, schooling, friendships and support. A bequest to your parish, no matter how small, will help the faith community which has meant so much to you to continue its good works and its loving outreach. It is also a means by which you can plan a lasting gift for your parish which might not be possible in your lifetime. In receiving a bequest, a parish may be able to use the gift to attend to much needed maintenance and improvements to the church and other parish property. These kinds of gifts help the Parish free up other income to use toward pastoral care programs.